

**Vermont Health Access
Pharmacy Benefit Management Program**

**Quarterly Report to
Health Access Oversight
Committee**

Q2 SFY 2009

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Pharmacy Benefit Management Program

Quarterly Report

October, November and December 2008

The Agency of Human Services, Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), is pleased to provide the quarterly report to the Health Access Oversight Committee as required by Act 127 approved in 2002 and found in 33 V.S.A. Chapter 19 § 2001. This report covers the activities of the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) for the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2009.

The three requirements are set out in bold italics. The OVHA's response follows each requirement.

§2001 (c) (1) "The director of the office of Vermont health access shall report quarterly to the health access oversight committee concerning the following aspects of the pharmacy best practices and cost control program:

(1) the efforts undertaken to educate health care providers about the preferred drug list and the program's utilization review procedures;"

During this quarter, the following educational mailings were sent to pharmacy and/or prescribing providers:

- **December 2008:** OVHA Pharmacy Bulletin – 2009 claims processing update and enrollment information for Part C and Part D plans.
- **October 2008:** OVHA Pharmacy Alert – Specialty Pharmacy Selection Announcement (ICORE Healthcare, LLC, and Wilcox Medical dba Wilcox Home Infusion).
- **October 2008:** OVHA Pharmacy Alert – Change to the Preferred Drug List. OVHA moved Duragesic® (brand fentanyl) to preferred status and generic fentanyl to non-preferred status. This was due to Duragesic®'s more advantageous net cost to the state after the application of manufacturer rebates.

In addition, revised Preferred Drug Lists and Clinical Criteria manuals were posted to the OVHA pharmacy website for October, November and December 2008.

In an attempt to make all documents available to interested parties, the department maintains a web page with information related to the Pharmacy Benefits Management Program at:

<http://ovha.vermont.gov/for-providers>.

“(2) the number of prior authorization requests made;”

SFY 2009 Q2 Clinical Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	Approved	Change in Therapy	Denied	Fair Hearing Status
October	1,673	1,273	92	308	1 Pending, 1 Withdrawn
November	1,322	1,025	73	224	1 Pending
December	1,483	1,144	71	268	1 Affirmed, 1 Pending
Total	4,478	3,442	236	800	5

SFY 2009 Q2 Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	Approved	Change in Therapy	Denied	Fair Hearing Status
October	166	137	11	18	0
November	124	109	9	6	0
December	148	119	13	16	0
Total	438	365	33	40	0

Combined SFY 2009 Q2 Clinical and Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	Approved	Change in Therapy	Denied	Fair Hearing Status
October	1,839	1,410	103	326	1 Pending, 1 Withdrawn
November	1,446	1,134	82	230	1 Pending
December	1,631	1,263	84	284	1 Affirmed, 1 Pending
Total	4,916	3,807	269	840	5

Data in the table above show that the OVHA received a total of 4,478 requests for **clinical prior authorizations (PA)** during the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2009 (October, November and December 2008). This represents a 3.49% decrease in the total number of clinical prior authorization received during the previous quarter (4,640), and a 7.08% increase from one year ago, Q2 SFY 2008, when total clinical PA requests were 4,182.

OVHA received a total of 438 requests for **quantity limit prior authorizations** during the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2009 (October, November and December 2008), a 6.61% decrease in the total number of quantity limit prior authorization requests received during the previous quarter (469), and a 20.99% increase from one year ago, Q2 SFY 2008, when total quantity limit PA requests were 362. Q2 SFY 2008 was the first quarter that OVHA began reporting quantity limit prior authorizations in this report.

“(3) the number of utilization review events (other than prior authorization requests).”

	October	November	December	Q2	Percentage of Total
Drug-Age Precaution	20	26	25	71	0.02%
Drug-Disease Precaution	3,278	3,118	3,683	10079	3.43%
Drug-Drug Interaction	24,114	21,007	24,237	69358	23.64%
Ingredient Duplication	9,386	8,237	9,750	27373	9.33%
Refill Too Soon	3,932	4,010	4,693	12635	4.31%
Therapeutic Duplication	60,002	53,433	60,496	173931	59.27%
Total	100,732	89,831	102,884	293,447	100.00%

During the second quarter of SFY 2009, a total of 293,447 utilization events occurred. This was a 2.64% decrease from the previous quarter, in which a total of 301,417 utilization review events occurred. Below is a comparison of the utilization review events for the first and second quarters of SFY 2009.

	Q2 SFY 09	Q1 SFY 09	Percent Change:
Drug-Age Precaution	71	63	0.00%
Drug-Disease Precaution	10079	10,199	-1.18%
Drug-Drug Interaction	69358	80,022	-13.33%
Ingredient Duplication	27373	26,382	3.76%
Refill Too Soon	12635	11,479	10.07%
Therapeutic Duplication	173931	173,272	0.38%
Total	293,447	301,417	-2.64%